

## The Artful Heart

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### Eat More Chocolate and Stockpile the Boxes

It's not like you need an excuse, but we're giving you one anyway. We love this brilliantly simple idea to transform an ordinary heart-shaped box into an extraordinary valentine gift or anytime keepsake. Combine the iconic box with your favorite fabric (we used one of Denyse's fabrics from her DS Quilts Collection) and voila – the Artful Heart. A uniquely beautiful box to store a romantic trinket or your most valued treasures – even if those are just your favorite buttons or the bracelet made out of gum wrappers.

Open your heart to the many creative ways to celebrate love in all its forms – any day of the year, not just February 14. You can satisfy your chocolate habit, *and* create a stash of personalized gifts to give year-round by stocking up on heart-shaped boxes of candy the day *after* the holiday, at half price! Customize the box top, and fill with beautiful scented soaps for a memorable hostess gift. Or, fill it with a collection of photos that will remind your best friend of all the fun and laughter you've shared over the years.

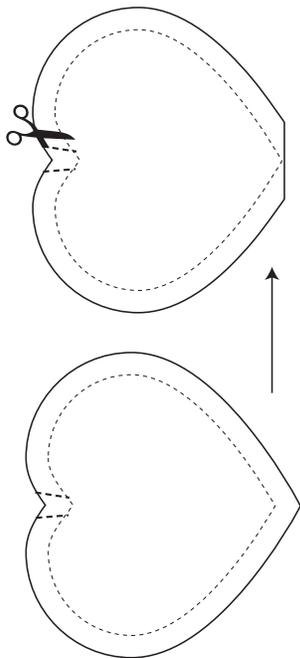
Best of all – YOU get to keep the chocolate – win-win, pure and simple!



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Figure A



## What You'll Need

- A store-bought, heart-shaped chocolate box
- Cardstock (a piece of file folder or a cereal box will work just fine)
- A piece of fabric and two scraps of cotton batting (Each slightly larger than the heart-shaped box top)
- White craft glue

We used a pink plaid from Aunt Edna, part of Denyse's latest **DS Quilts Collection** fabrics available at Jo-Ann Stores nationwide, or online. For the second box (right), we used a wavy stripe from her Picnic/Fairgrounds **DS Quilts Collection**.

## How to Make the Heart-Shaped Box Top

### Prepare the Template

Trace the box top heart shape onto a piece of thin cardstock, and cut along the pencil line to make the Heart Template for the box top.

### Cut the Fabric

Cut one or two pieces of cotton batting to fit on top of the Heart Template. Trace the Heart Template onto the wrong side of your fabric, with a  $\frac{3}{4}$ -inch allowance *outside* the pencil line.

### Make the Box Top

Place a dot of glue in the center of the Heart Template, and position the batting on top, edges aligned.

Center the fabric over the batting. Begin wrapping the fabric toward the back of the Heart Template, gluing the edges in place as you go. Pull firmly enough so the fabric isn't loose, but not so tightly that you warp the template. Clip the fabric at the top v-shape to get it to wrap neatly (see Figure A).

*Tip: When you get close to the bottom point of the Heart, fold the tip under first, then the sides (see Figure A).*

As you wrap and glue, the fabric will naturally gather into small folds around the back of the curved heart shape. Make sure to glue the folds in place. Let your heart rest until the glue is dry and then glue the completed fabric-covered Heart Template to the box top.

## Finishing Touches

That's it! But feel free to embellish to your Artful Heart's content. Trim with ribbon or rickrack, use fabric from a loved one's old shirt or dress (better ask first!), or for that truly special someone, embroider a personal message onto the fabric before you begin assembling the heart top.